AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A method for ~~eliminating and/or reducing the number of~~ treating fodder to reduce or eliminate molds responsible for the production of mycotoxins in feed prepared from said fodder, comprising the step of adding to said fodder one or more strains of lactobacilli selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus plantarum* and *Lactobacillus pentosus*, in combination with one or more strains of forced hetero-fermentative lactobacilli ~~feeds, characterized in that fodders for preparing said feeds are added with at least a stock of lactobacilli chosen from the group comprising *Lactobacillus plantarum* LMG P-21020, LMG P-21021, LMG P-21022 and LMG P-21023 and *Lactobacillus pentosus* LMG P-21019, if necessary in combination with one or more forced hetero-fermentative lactobacilli~~.

2. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that said forced hetero-fermentative lactobacilli are selected from the group consisting of ~~chosen among those belonging to the species~~ *Lactobacillus fermentum*, *Lactobacillus brevis* and *Leuconostoc mesenteroides*.

3. (currently amended) The method according to claim [[2]] 1, characterized in that said forced hetero-fermentative lactobacilli are ~~chosen among the following stocks:~~ selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus fermentum* I 789, *Lactobacillus brevis* LBR01 and *Leuconostoc mesenteroides* subsp. *cremoris* LcM 04.

4. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of providing animal feed from said fodder, wherein said method is effective to reduce the amount of aflatoxin B1 in said feed ~~characterized in that said mycotoxins are aflatoxin B1~~.

5. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said method is effective to reduce the amount of mold of the genus *Aspergillus* in said fodder ~~characterized in that said molds are of the genus *Aspergillus*~~.

6. (currently amended and withdrawn) A method for producing cow milk essentially free from aflatoxin M1, comprising the steps of feeding dairy cows feed prepared from fodder treated

according to the method of claim 1 and thereafter milking said cows ~~characterized in that dairy cows are fed with feeds prepared starting from fodders treated with at least a stock of lactobacilli chosen from the group comprising *Lactobacillus plantarum* LMG P-21020, LMG P-21021, LMG P-21022 and LMG P-21023 and *Lactobacillus pentosus* LMG P-21019, if necessary in combination with one or more forced hetero-fermentative lactobacilli~~.

7. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein both *Lactobacillus plantarum* and *Lactobacillus pentosus* are added to said fodder ~~characterized in that at least two or more of said lactobacilli are used, if necessary in combination with one or more forced hetero-fermentative lactobacilli~~.

8. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that said lactobacilli are added to said ~~fodders~~ fodder in ~~an average~~ a dose of use per quintal of fodder of about 50 to about 500 billions of live bacteria.

9. (original) The method according to claim 8, characterized in that said dose is of about 100 billions of bacteria per quintal of fodder.

10. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that said lactobacilli are ~~used~~ added to said fodder in liquid culture.

11-16. (cancelled)

17. (withdrawn) Milk and dairy products free from aflatoxins, obtained with the method according to claim 6.

18. (withdrawn) Milk and dairy products free from aflatoxin M1, obtained with the method according to claim 6.

19. (currently amended and withdrawn) A composition of lactobacilli comprising (a) one or more strains of lactobacilli ~~chosen~~ selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of *Lactobacillus plantarum* ~~LMG P-21020, LMG P-21021, LMG P-21022 and LMG P-21023~~ and *Lactobacillus pentosus* ~~LMG P-21019 in combination with~~ and (b) one or more strains of forced hetero-fermentative lactobacilli~~, for treating fodders~~.

20. (currently amended and withdrawn) The composition according to claim 19, characterized in that said ~~one or more~~ forced hetero-fermentative lactobacilli are ~~chosen among those belonging to the species~~ selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus fermentum*, *Lactobacillus brevis* and *Leuconostoc mesenteroides*.

21. (currently amended and withdrawn) The composition according to claim [[20]] 19, characterized in that said ~~one or more~~ forced hetero-fermentative lactobacilli are ~~chosen from the groups comprising~~ selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus fermentum* I 789, *Lactobacillus brevis* LBR01 and *Leuconostoc mesenteroides* subsp. *cremoris* LcM 04.

22. (withdrawn) The composition according to claim 19 in anhydrous form.

23. (currently amended and withdrawn) The composition according to claim 19 in ~~form of~~ liquid culture form.

24-27. (cancelled)

28. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein said strains selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus plantarum* and *Lactobacillus pentosus* are selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus plantarum* LMG P-21020, LMG P-21021, LMG P-21022 and LMG P-21023 and *Lactobacillus pentosus* LMG P-21019.

29. (new) The method of claim 28, wherein said forced hetero-fermentative lactobacilli are selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus fermentum*, *Lactobacillus brevis* and *Leuconostoc mesenteroides*.